



# City Administrator's Report

January 2012

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Please share your comments and suggestions with us.*

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## Key Meetings

City Council	Tuesdays, January 10, 24, 31
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## Community Events

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 16
Santa Barbara International Film Festival	January 25 – February 5

## Flags on State Street

Gay Santa Barbara	January 4 –10
Sansum Clinic	January 10 – 20
Planned Parenthood	January 20 – 27
Santa Barbara International Film Festival	January 27 – February 7

## City Administrator

**City Prepares to Dissolve Redevelopment Agency.** A recent Supreme Court decision will require a quick dissolution of the City's Redevelopment Agency, severely impacting its ability to continue economic revitalization efforts in the downtown and waterfront areas, as well as build affordable housing projects. As part of the State's approved budget, two bills were adopted last year – one that eliminated redevelopment agencies and a second which allowed the agencies to exist if they paid a share of fees annually to the State. The constitutionality of both bills was legally challenged. On December 29, 2011, the State Supreme Court found the elimination of redevelopment agencies constitutional but the right to exist by paying annual fees a violation of the recently passed Proposition 22. As a result of this legal decision, all redevelopment agencies will be dissolved on February 1 and their successor agencies will begin to function.

The City Council voted on January 10 to appoint the Council as a successor agency that would control all assets, properties, contracts, leases, records, buildings, and equipment of the former Redevelopment Agency. Along with 400 redevelopment agencies across the state, the City is currently assessing the ramifications of the legal decision. All redevelopment projects in design have been placed on hold as staff evaluates the complex dissolution process. Legislative proposals have been introduced to modify or improve the dissolution process but their prospects of passing are unknown. As more information is available, the City Council will begin taking the required next steps to dissolve the agency and decide if the City will be able to complete some pending capital improvement projects.

The redevelopment agency has played a critical role since the early 1970s to improve economic conditions in Santa Barbara through various capital improvements. Project examples include Paseo Nuevo, downtown parking structures, expanding Chase Palm Park, rehabilitating the Fire Headquarters, and restoring the Railroad Depot and the Granada Theater.

## Administrative Services

***New Councilmember Swearing-In Ceremony.*** On Tuesday, January 10, new Councilmember Cathy Murillo was sworn in. City Clerk Services Manager Cyndi Rodriguez administered the Affirmation of Allegiance and presented the official Certificates of Election to Councilmember Francisco and Councilmember Rowse.

## Airport

***November Passenger Count.*** The passenger count for November was 56,611, down 5.5% compared with November 2010. The total passenger count year-to-date was 668,074, down 4.1% compared to the same period last year. The highest average passenger loads in November were aboard *United Airlines* flights to Denver at 91.7%; *Frontier Airlines* flights to Denver at 87.1%; and *Alaska Airlines* flights to Seattle at 86.8%.

***New Airport Master Plan.*** The first meeting of the Airport Master Plan Advisory Committee was held on December 7. Committee members had an opportunity to meet, discuss goals and priorities, and learn about the lengthy master planning process. The next meeting of the Committee is planned for spring 2012, to be followed by a public workshop.

***Airport Parking Changes.*** Beginning January 9, the Long Term Parking Lot 1 at the Airline Terminal will be used for all on-site parking. The Short Term Parking Lot is closed while the new loop road is completed. Passengers are also encouraged to park in the Long Term Parking Lot 2 off Hollister Avenue and Frederick Lopez Road during this phase of construction and take advantage of the FREE shuttle, which takes you to the airline terminal every 8 – 10 minutes.

***Airport Visitors Center School Tours.*** The City of Santa Barbara provides school tours at the Airport Visitors Center. Activities include class visits and on-site presentations. The Center is planning a number of activities for January, including parent/child workshop education classes, visits to the Airport fire station, meetings of the Future Flyers Program, and presentations on forces of flight, aviation weather, types and uses of aircraft, and aviation careers.

## Community Development

**Planning Commission Meetings.** On January 12, the Commission will appoint a new chair and vice-chair and make a decision on a twelve-unit Habitat for Humanity condominium project at 822-826 East Canon Perdido Street. On January 19, the Commission will hold a concept review hearing for the proposed new police station at 215 East Figueroa Street.

**Rental Housing Mediation Program Receives External Funding.** The Rental Housing Mediation Task Force (RHMTF) assists in resolving tenant and landlord rental housing disputes out of court. Last year, Council authorized a one-time appropriation of funds for a six-month period (July – December 2011) and additional appropriated reserves to fund the program for another six-month period, if needed. With the help of donations, outside funds, and contracts, the additional City funding will not be needed. The RHMTF program will continue to provide the current level of services to the public for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff and Task Force members continue to pursue alternative and sustainable sources of funding.

**Californian Hotel Status.** The Californian Hotel, located at 35 State Street, has submitted a plan for partial demolition of the building as part of its proposed structural reinforcement plan. The demolition and reinforcement work will begin in January. In preparation for this work, pedestrian protection has already been installed along the sidewalk. The Californian Hotel is part of the larger Entrada de Santa Barbara Project, which involves redevelopment of three sites with a total of 114 hotel units and 9 timeshare units.

## Finance

**Electronic Recycling Event a Success.** Environmental Services held its biannual e-waste collection event in November and kept 158,164 pounds of electronic waste from reaching the landfill. City staff, in partnership with E-Recycling of California, collected 7 semi-truck loads of e-waste, making it one of the most successful collection events yet. Staff also greeted 1,695 vehicles as they came to dispose of e-waste and answered questions related to proper electronic waste recycling and the environment. The next e-waste event is scheduled for April.

**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for November 2011.** The TOT for November 2011 grew 12.3% over the previous November with collections of \$845,202. The strong growth built on 11.9% growth in the same month last year and with the same number of weekend days in each November. The results are particularly encouraging as we are now in the wetter and cooler winter months when the TOT collections are lower and we typically see fewer visitors to our city. Year-to-date growth in the TOT through November is 9.1%, outpacing the 4.5% growth rate assumed in the adopted budget.

Transient Occupancy Tax Update						
Month	FY 2010	Change Prior Year	FY 2011	Change Prior Year	FY 2012	Change Prior Year
July	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%	\$ 1,571,324	12.8%	\$ 1,763,206	12.2%
Aug	1,474,189	-19.0%	1,591,121	7.9%	1,697,686	6.7%
Sept	1,106,152	-7.5%	1,154,834	4.4%	1,255,217	8.7%
Oct	944,230	-10.0%	1,058,405	12.1%	1,126,506	6.4%
Nov	672,636	-12.6%	752,641	11.9%	845,202	12.3%
Dec	588,594	-1.8%	651,909	10.8%		
Jan	685,633	0.8%	692,393	1.0%		
Feb	683,280	6.2%	742,361	8.6%		
Mar	823,759	8.4%	825,040	0.2%		
April	957,350	2.9%	1,060,466	10.8%		
May	1,001,965	6.0%	1,093,703	9.2%		
June	1,133,124	12.1%	1,264,961	11.6%		
FY Total	\$ 11,464,132	-4.8%	\$ 12,459,157	8.7%	\$ 6,687,816	9.1%
Budget					\$ 12,865,000	

**Sales Tax for the Quarter Ending September 2011.** Sales tax for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 grew 8.4% over the previous September quarter, with collections of almost \$4.8 million. Other cities and regions across the state also saw strong growth in the September quarter with sales tax up 9.2% statewide. Sales tax results are received from the state for the prior quarter. This marks the first complete quarter of sales tax receipts recorded in the current fiscal year 2012. After the first quarter, the City is approximately \$697,000 ahead of the adopted budget fiscal year-to-date, which assumes 3% sales tax growth overall. The fiscal year 2012 sales tax budget is \$12,865,000.

Sales Tax Update						
Quarter Ended	FY 2010	Change from Prior Year	FY 2011	Change from Prior Year	FY 2012	Change from Prior Year
Sept 30	4,255,906	-16.9%	4,423,839	3.9%	4,797,256	8.4%
Dec 31	4,377,436	-3.3%	4,495,481	2.7%		
Mar 31	3,838,812	0.4%	3,954,515	3.0%		
June 30	4,232,565	4.0%	4,704,205	11.1%		
Totals	\$ 16,704,719	-4.8%	\$ 17,578,040	5.2%	\$ 4,797,256	8.4%

## Fire

**Structure Fires.** On December 31, firefighters responded to an apartment fire in the 500 block of West Canon Perdido Street involving a two-story multi-unit apartment building. Firefighters contained the damage to just one unit of the building. The fire originated in the kitchen and was accidental in nature. Initial estimates of the fire damage are set at \$75,000. No injuries were reported.

On January 4, firefighters responded to a structure fire in a two-story multi-residential structure at 1030 Bath Street. The damage was confined to the room where the fire started and was caused by combustible material that ignited next to a wall-heating unit. Residents on the second floor escaped unharmed because of alerts from a functioning smoke detector.

Please remember to have a working smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home and be sure to change the batteries twice a year.

**Toy for Tots Drive.** This year, the City of Santa Barbara collected 790 toys for the Toys for Tots Program. Each holiday season, the Fire Department places a large red box near the front entrance of each fire station. Toys this year ranged from stuffed animals to a brand-new bicycle. Next year's goal is to collect 1,000 toys!

**Firefighter Training Exercises.** Firefighters will be conducting live burn training exercises on January 12 – 15 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The training will occur in a two-story apartment complex at 512 Bath Street. The class will provide valuable training to approximately 90 firefighters. Fires will be started within the building to provide instruction on the latest fire suppression techniques. Smoke and flames may be visible from time to time, and all precautions have been made for the safety and protection of surrounding properties and the environment. The apartment building is scheduled for demolition on January 16 and access to such a building provides firefighters the opportunity to train in a real-life setting.

## Library

**Santa Barbara Reads 2012.** Santa Barbara Reads brings together environmental, scientific, and literary themes with *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*. The Library System has over 200 copies of the book available in various formats. The Santa Barbara Reads program will consist of a free talk with the author and community conversations over the next several months. This year marks the sixth year of partnership between the Library, UCSB, and SBCC.

**Three Gifts for Library Programs.** The Kirby Jones Foundation made a gift of \$10,000 to support the Library's Adult Literacy Program. This generous grant keeps this beloved and vital program thriving during a time of state budget insecurity. Funds will support tutor training and the purchase of materials for adult literacy learners. Other notable gifts include the Outhwaite Foundation's \$5,000 gift to the Central Library for the Children's Library project and the Frank and Joseph Gila Fund's \$3,000 gift for Reference services.

**Library eBook Circulation Hits New Milestone.** Downloadable eBook circulation at the [Public Library System](#) has recently topped 15,000, continuing the explosive growth trend seen since the service was introduced. Checkouts are up 110% over last year. The nearly 5,000 eBooks in the growing collection include bestsellers and popular books for adults and children, and are compatible with Kindles, Nooks, iPads, iPhones, and many other smartphones, tablets, and reading devices. To get started, all you need is a Santa Barbara Public Library card.

## Parks and Recreation

**New Adult Dance and Fitness Classes Kick Off the New Year.** The Carrillo Recreation Center is the place to exercise in the New Year. A wide variety of new [classes](#), from Body Bootcamp to Zumba to QiGong, have begun. Don't worry if you missed the first meeting – you can join a class at any time. For more information, call 897-2519.

**New Year, New You!** Make [Parks and Recreation](#) your resolution solution for fitness and fun in 2012. Enter to win \$200 to use towards recreation classes, swim or tennis passes, or facility rentals. Download the raffle form and bring it to your first class this winter to be entered into the \$200 raffle. Postcards with the raffle entry have been mailed to local neighborhoods.

**Swim Special Available at Los Baños Pool.** If lap swimming is your choice of sport, take advantage of the 30/30 January special at this 50-meter outdoor pool: swim 30 days for \$30 during adult lap swim hours, Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 9 a.m. and noon – 2 p.m.; and weekends noon – 2 p.m. Buy your pass at the pool at 401 Shoreline Drive or call 966-6110.

**Help Everything Come Up Roses!** The Parks & Recreation Department and the Rose Society are requesting volunteers to help prune the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden on Saturday, January 14 (rain date: January 21), starting at 9 a.m. The annual pruning is necessary to ensure abundant blooms for the spring and summer months. No experience is necessary, and rosarians will be on hand to demonstrate proper rose pruning techniques to interested participants. For more information, please call 564-5433.

**Teens Can Cook.** Junior and senior high school students who would like to learn basic cooking skills or learn about becoming a chef or a caterer can participate in the Teen Culinary Arts program. Classes run January 9 – March 29 at two locations:

- Tuesdays at the Westside Community Center, 423 West Victoria Street
- Wednesdays at the Franklin Neighborhood Center, 1136 East Montecito Street

Hours for both sites are 3:45 – 6:00 p.m. For information, contact the [program coordinator](#).

## Police

**Restorative Policing Program Update.** The Restorative Policing Program began 2011 with one sworn officer, and in July 2011, City Council approved the addition of a sworn officer, six part-time Community Service Liaisons, and three part-time Restorative Outreach Specialists. In 2011, the Restorative Policing Team was involved in:

- 2,160 follow-up visits with clients who are newly placed or reunified with families;
- 111 new placements where a client was placed in housing, detox, or work-related programs;
- 200 calls for service interventions where officers assisted other police officers;
- 39 reunifications where officers reunited clients with family, friends, or support groups;
- 1,826 meetings specifically related to the Restorative Policing Program; and
- 1,423 clients who are currently in placement, reunification, or sobriety.

The newly enhanced Restorative Policing Team eagerly looks to the challenges awaiting them in 2012.

**New Police Hires.** The City is pleased to welcome six new officers to the police force who recently graduated from the six-month Police Academy in San Bernardino in December. The new officers will be on the street with their training officers at the end of January. Officer Garcia previously worked at the Police Department as a Parking Enforcement Officer. The City is also pleased to welcome back Officer Nathan Beltran, who started his law enforcement career with Santa Barbara but has been working for the Oxnard Police Department for the last sixteen months.

**Police Activities League (PAL) Update.** In 2011, PAL held several events and sports programs for 1377 kids. Some of the highlights include:

- Junior high soccer, basketball, and flag football programs (708 kids);
- Camping scholarships awarded through Campership Alliance (394 kids);
- Two camping trips, Cops and Kids Camp and Big and Little Camp (63 kids);
- Youth Leadership Council and Law Enforcement Explorer Post (33 teens); and
- Holiday dinner (children received gifts and 159 dinners served).

## Public Works

**Ortega Bridge Replacement Update.** The Ortega Bridge project is nearly complete, and only minor construction remains. Crews recently finished construction of the barrier rail, street and sidewalk replacements, and landscape improvements. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, January 11 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Adam Hendel at 897-1921.

**Wastewater Collection System Pipeline Inspection.** The City has begun inspecting sections of the wastewater collection system pipeline. Work will occur Monday – Friday, 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m., and is expected to last a maximum of four weeks. The primary neighborhoods that will be affected are the Westside, Eastside, and Waterfront. Crews inspect the pipelines regularly to assess their condition and to maintain optimum service. For more information, contact Manuel Romero at 568-1020.

**Westside Sidewalk Improvements.** The City of Santa Barbara will begin construction shortly to install sidewalk [access ramps](#) at the intersection of West Sola Street and Chino Street, along the southeast side of the 600 block of West Sola Street, and along the northeast side of the 1200 block of Gillespie Street. The sidewalk infill and access ramps will be designed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and will improve access for all pedestrians. There will be no street closures associated with this construction, but traffic delays may occur.

## Waterfront

**Waterfront Parking Permits Now Available.** Annual Waterfront parking permits are now available for purchase. General permits cost \$95 and slip-holder permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2012. The Waterfront Department encourages residents and slip holders to purchase the 2012 permits early for a whole year of economical parking. General permits are available at the Harbormaster's Office and all parking kiosks, except Stearns Wharf. Slip-holder permits may only be purchased at the Harbormaster's Office. For more information, call 897-1965.